

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 341

By Shipley

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the staff, physicians, and administrators of Mountain State Health Alliance and Indian Path Medical Center on the occasion of the hospital's thirty-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to honor and recognize the staff, physicians, and administrators of those hospitals and healthcare institutions that have contributed to the health and well-being of this State's citizens; and

WHEREAS, unrivaled in their dedication to quality patient care, the men and women of Indian Path Medical Center (IPMC) have been serving the citizens of Kingsport and the surrounding area for thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, before IPMC opened, those in need of a hospital bed in the Kingsport area were often forced to place their names on a waiting list for Holston Valley Hospital; in order to remedy this inadequacy, a group of local doctors began working with the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) and its founder, Dr. Thomas Frist, Sr., to open a new hospital in Kingsport; and

WHEREAS, the facility was named for a path Native Americans once used on the east side of what is now Kingsport; workers unearthed a number of ancient relics in the course of construction, and many of these items are now on display in the hospital's lobby; and

WHEREAS, the original 150-bed facility opened on September 8, 1974 and offered services and amenities, such as private rooms, that were previously unavailable to area residents in need of care; and

WHEREAS, officials soon determined that 150 beds would not meet the local demand for hospital care; yet another 150 beds, and four more stories, were soon added to the original facility; and

WHEREAS, after years of growth and success, the hospital became part of Mountain States Health Alliance (MSHA), a non-profit entity, and the expansion of the campus continued; in 2001, plans were announced to double the size of the emergency department, add a host of new outpatient services, and build a forty-four-thousand-square-foot office building; and

WHEREAS, recent additions and renovations have included an expanded intensive care unit (ICU), a new ICU waiting area, improved laboratory facilities, and ninety new parking spaces; IPMC's geriatric psychiatric services were recently relocated to allow for the expansion of the hospital's seventh-floor medical-surgical services; and

WHEREAS, the eighty-acre campus includes the hospital itself, eight MSHA-owned physicians offices, and two privately owned medical office buildings; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its impressive physical plant, host of inpatient and outpatient services, and staff of caring professionals, IPMC serves as Mountain State's pioneer facility for the implementation of electronic medical records, an innovation that will improve the quality of care and make costs more manageable; and

WHEREAS, throughout the hospital's thirty-five years, the patients and staff of IPMC have benefitted from capable administrators and managers; Chief Executive Officer Monty McLaurin has served Indian Path since 2004, but he has been involved in the health care industry since 1976; and

WHEREAS, Mountain States Health Alliance President and Chief Executive Officer Dennis Vonderfecht took the helm of Johnson City Medical Center in 1990 and subsequently built MSHA into the thriving concern it is today; he has served as the Chairman not only of the Tennessee Hospital Association, but also the Hospital Alliance of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of every Tennessean is truly a common good, and the people of this State are fortunate indeed to be served by the caring professionals of Indian Path Medical Center and its parent, Mountain States Health Alliance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the staff, physicians, and administrators of Mountain States Health Alliance and Indian Path Medical Center on the occasion of the

hospital's thirty-fifth anniversary, thank them for all they have done to better the lives and improve the health of so many Tennesseans, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.